

**Notes from URGWOM Steering Committee Meeting;
July 10, 2003; 10:00 AM; Corps of Engineers Conference Room,
Albuquerque**

In Attendance:

Cyndie Abeyta, USFWS

Roberta Ball, Corps

Steve Bowser, USBR

Daniel Brown, II, WJM Engineering,
Inc./Corps

Tim Darden, NM Department of Ag.

Ellen Dietrich, SAIC/Corps

Jaci Gould, USBR

Nancy Hanks, Paso del Norte Watershed
Council

Debbie Hathaway, SSPA/NMISC

Conrad Keyes, Jr., Consultant to Corps

William J. Miller, WJM Engineering, Inc./Corps

Bob Mussetter, MEI/NMISC

Jesse Roach, Sandia Laboratories

Garret Ross, USBR

Leona Sam, USBR

Nabil Shafike, NMISC

Marc Sidlow, Corps

Gail Stockton, Corps

Dave Wilkins, USGS/URGWOM Technical
Team

- ❖ Gail Stockton opened the meeting and turned it over to Dave Wilkins and Marc Sidlow to update the group on development of the Planning Model. The Technical Team has devoted most of its time to this effort over the past month.
- ❖ Dave Wilkins and Marc Sidlow gave a slide presentation on recent changes made to the Planning Model, its functions and organization, as well as the setup and assumptions for the test runs. The test runs were done to check model operation and to develop the baseline runs for URGWOPS in preparation for evaluating the alternatives for the EIS. A handout of the presentation was distributed. Questions and answers are summarized briefly below.
 - **Question:** Was sediment included in the assumptions for USBR projects?
 - **Answer:** Not all USBR projects have estimated sediment, so the model continued the procedures currently in place.
 - **Question:** If contractors do not get their demands met early in the year, how is this handled?
 - **Answer:** Contractors either get their full allocation, or if demand exceeds supply early in the year, the model would try to deliver water later to meet the demand, if possible.
 - Nabil Shafike indicated that the ISC agrees with the concept of proportioning initial conditions for water supply, as necessary to meet demands.
 - **Question:** Does the Planning Model take into account conservation storage at Abiquiu?
 - **Answer:** Not in the baseline runs, which are just the starting point to set up runs for all URGWOPS alternatives, some of which will consider conservation storage at Abiquiu.
 - **Question:** Why does El Vado never drop below 40,000 acre-feet of storage?
 - **Answer:** The combined San Juan-Chama storage is included. The baseline assumes that SJ-C water is not needed for other purposes like flows for the silvery minnow.

- **Question:** How did the MRGCD diversions work out in the test runs using the first 10 years of climate data?
 - **Answer:** The Technical Team has not had the chance to study the outputs in detail, but it seems that MRGCD is shorted often. The first 10 years include several drought years.
- After the slide presentation, Marc ran the model to demonstrate how it functions.
- ❖ Nancy Hanks gave an overview of the development of a coordinated water resources database by the Paso del Norte Watershed Council. She distributed a handout on the status of the project, including meetings and data acquired.
 - The work is being conducted by Suzanne Tillery and Dr. J. Phillip King at NMSU, who are interested in any suggestions for new sources of data from the URGWOM Steering Committee.
 - The gag order on water supply information is still in place. However, the database project is establishing mechanisms for sharing data that will be used when the restrictions are lifted.
 - Much of the data collected so far is from BESTSM and the Sustainable Water Project EIS, mostly in hard copy. Timesteps of the data vary.
 - **Question:** How is the data stored?
 - **Answer:** Mostly in spreadsheets, but none has been verified yet. Eventually, all data will be integrated into a database.
 - Quality control to check data will be randomized, with documentation kept on what was checked.
 - The final deliverables for the current task, nearing completion, are a report and the data in electronic format (spreadsheet or scanned).
- ➡ ➤ **At the next URGWOM Steering Committee meeting, August 14, Nancy would like to give a presentation on the final report and project status.**
- ❖ Gail asked the group to set a date for the next Technical Review Committee meeting, which is needed prior to release of the Planning Model for testing and others to use.
 - The documentation to be sent out 30 days in advance will include only the changes and fixes to the model.
 - Invitations will be sent out to everyone on the large mailing list.
- ➡ ➤ **The decision was made to hold the next Technical Review Committee meeting on the day of the regularly scheduled November URGWOM Steering Committee meeting, November 13, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Corps in Albuquerque.**
- ❖ Gail pointed out that there has been a great deal of cooperation and collaboration among the cooperating agencies and many others to develop URGWOM.
 - One small subset of this cooperation is the co-location of some of the Technical Team members at the Corps.
 - The Corps put up space. The USBR contributed to computer maintenance at the Corps for the Technical Team. USGS contributed staff and furniture.
 - Gail asked that USBR continue their computer maintenance funding, which was approved by Steve Bowser.
- ❖ Steve Bowser reviewed the current status of the development of HDB by USBR staff.
 - HDB(2) was released a few months ago and has been used mainly by Upper and Lower Colorado USBR staff. Bugs are being fixed.

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- Once the bugs have been fixed, it will be checked and released as HDB.
- The timeline for the addition of water accounting data has slipped due to bugs and a lack of funding for CADSWES. The deadline for accounting data to be added is December 31, 2003.
- Steve will soon lead the HDB effort in Albuquerque and will get the database implemented in the Area Office.



- ❖ **The next meeting of the URGWOM Steering Committee will be held on August 14 at 10:00 a.m. in the Corps' conference room.**